



**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING HELD AT THE
EMERALD CASINO RESORT, VANDERBIJLPARK
ON 29 AUGUST 2005**

Present:

Please see attached attendance register

Proxies:

Trinette Evert

Apologies:

Ilse du Plooy, Trinette Evert, Tilla Fick, Philip Fourie, Neil Manson, Marthi Muller, Cobus Potgieter, Magdel Strydom, Leo Tomé, Jan van Vuuren, Stephan Visagie

1. WELCOME:

The president, Wim Gevers, welcomed everyone present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: 7 SEPTEMBER 2004

The minutes were considered read and were approved.

Proposer: Theo Stewart

Secunder: Paul Fatti

3. MATTERS ARISING

There was a debate about proxy voting at last year's AGM. This has unfortunately not yet been investigated. It will be attended to in the next year and discussed at the next AGM.

4. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

See attached report. Wim Gevers read the report and it was accepted.

Proposer: Dave Evans

Secunder: Ozias Ncube

5. FINANCIAL REPORT

See attached treasurer's report and provisional income statement. The audited report is not yet available due to the change in the financial year end. The current priority is to get the outstanding subscriptions in. Dave was asked to confirm receipt of payment – this could probably be shown on the membership section of website. The financial report was accepted.

Proposer: Hans Ittmann

Secunder: Theo Stewart

6. EDITORS' REPORTS

6.1 Newsletter

Wim Gevers read the report from the Newsletter editor – see attached. Hans Ittmann thanked the Newsletter editor for a sterling job.

6.2 ORiON

Wim Gevers read the report from the ORiON editor – see attached. Theo Stewart commented that he is involved in editorial boards of two journals of wide international membership and neither has been able to secure an ISI listing after 5 years. Wim proposed a word of thanks to Jan van Vuuren for getting the journal up to date.

7. CHAPTER REPORTS

7.1 JOHANNESBURG

Dave Evans read the report from Neil Manson – see attached.

7.2 PRETORIA

Danie Payne (treasurer) gave a brief overview of the activities. On 22 Aug Clem Sunter talked on scenario planning. The next talk will be on 22 Nov by Kate Elphick from Knowledge Factory. This will be combined with the AGM. A talk on GIS by GIMS is being arranged for early 2006. Hans Ittmann thanked Danie for taking the initiative to organise some talks for the Pretoria chapter.

7.3 KWAZULU-NATAL

No report was received from the KwaZulu-Natal chapter.

7.4 VAAL TRIANGLE

Marthi Harmse gave an overview of the chapter's activities. See report attached.

7.5 WESTERN CAPE

Wim read Margarete Bester's report. See attached.

8. EURO, IFORS AND OTHER LINKS

8.1 EURO

Theo Stewart reported that he was unable to attend the EURO council meeting as it clashed with the IFORS executive committee meeting. He pointed out that there are many EURO working groups – one can register with www.euro-online.org to find out about working groups in your subject area. Martine Labbé has been elected as the new EURO president from Jan 2006 – she will be the first female EURO president. Theo is planning the next ORPA (Operational Research Practice in Africa) conference, to be held in Cape Town in 2007, possibly coinciding with ORSSA 2007.

8.2 IFORS

Paul Fatti reported that he chaired the IFORS developing countries competition and Hans Ittmann is the editor of the developing countries newsletter. Members can email their details to Hans on hittmann@csir.co.za if they want to receive the developing countries newsletter.

IFORS 2008 will take place in the Sandton convention centre. Johannesburg is a concern for overseas delegates, so it's important to stress that the conference will be held in Sandton. A delegation from the IFORS Exec will come for site visit in January/February 2006. As the full committee has a strategy session in SA, they will all participate in the site visit. The following issues need to be attended to:

- Reduce the fixed cost in the budget. Currently the breakeven is at 1000 delegates, which is too many.
- Find more people for the local organising committee.
- Prepare a tender document for conference organisers.
- Find sponsors, including financial support for delegates from Africa..
- Find presenters from Africa to boost OR in Africa.
- Create a conference website, including tourist information.

Dave Evans asked if IFORS 2008 could at the same time be an OR for Development conference. Theo Stewart responded that there is normally a theme, but the programme chair (John Bartholdi, Georgia Tech) must suggest the theme.

9. ORSSA 2006

It would be ideal to have the ORSSA 2006 conference in KwaZulu Natal since ORPA/ORSSA 2007 will be held in Cape Town and IFORS 2008/ORSSA 2008 in Gauteng. (Apparently the next SAIIE conference will be held in Durban).

10. ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR 2005/2006

The following members were elected unanimously:

Secretary:	Isabelle Nieuwoudt
Treasurer:	Dave Evans
Newsletter editor:	Cobus Potgieter
Newsletter business manager:	Leo Tomé
ORiON editor:	Jan van Vuuren
ORiON business manager:	Stephan Visagie
Webmaster	Petrus Potgieter
Additional members	Hans Ittmann Theo Stewart Ozias Ncube
Co-opted:	Paul Fatti (IFORS representative)

12. GENERAL

Dave Evans proposed a vote of thanks to Wim Gevers as outgoing president for a job well done.

ATTENDANCE REGISTER

Name	Membership type
B Bothma	Full
H Bothma	Full
J Dean	Full
L Erasmus	Full
D Evans	Full
P Fatti	Full
W Gevers	Full
J Greben	Full
M Harmse	Full
H Ittmann	Full
CG Jacobs	Full
L Jenkins	Full
JW Joubert	Full
HA Kruger	Full
J le Roux	Full
MK Luhandjula	Full
A Msiza	Full
O Ncube	Full
D Payne	Full
P Potgieter	Full
PD Pretorius	Full
MJ Ramokgadi	Full
T Stewart	Full
M Turpin	Full
FE van Dyk	Full
WA van Hoepen	Full
G Venter	Full

ORSSA – PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2004/2005

Annual General Meeting, Emerald Casino
Resort, Vanderbijlpark, Gauteng
29 August 2005

1. INTRODUCTION

A year has passed since the last AGM – and it is quite amazing how rapidly a two-year term of office as president of the society can come to an end. It is good to tack stock annually of what we have done (and what not!) to see whether we still do what we set ourselves as goals for the society.

At the beginning of my term of office the executive met for a full day to discuss strategic direction and we formulated that ORSSA is a natural professional home to all persons who are involved in a systematic way of decision support, for the maintenance and advancement of all areas of Operations Research and the creation of opportunities for shared learning and networking amongst all members. How well have we lived up to that vision in the past year?

I hope to show that we have done very well in many respects – but that there is also room for improvement in other areas. In the end it is all work done by individuals on the executive committee on a voluntary basis. This comes with a sacrifice of personal time, and often even the sacrifice of work time.

Under the next headings I shall endeavour to highlight the activities of the society over the past year.

2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

At the AGM in Cape Town last year the executive committee was elected unopposed. The committee consisted of:

President:	Wim Gevers
Vice President:	Marthi Harmse
Secretary:	Esbeth van Dyk
Treasurer:	Dave Evans
Newsletter editor:	Cobus Potgieter
Newsletter Business Manager	Leo Tomé
ORiON Editor:	Jan van Vuuren
ORiON Business Manager:	Stephan Visagie
Webmaster:	Petrus Potgieter
Additional Members:	Hans Iltmann Theo Stewart Ozias Ncube
IFORS representative	Paul Fatti

Archivist:	Ilze du Plooy
Chapter chairpersons:	
Johannesburg:	Neil Manson
Pretoria:	Gys Wessels
KwaZulu-Natal:	Yvonne Fletcher
Western Cape:	Margarete Bester
Vaal-Triangle	Marthi Harmse

3. MEMBERSHIP

Membership is the heart and sole of the society. New members are welcomed by the secretary and treasurer ensures that the member information is kept up to date on the ORSSA database. The administration of the membership database, ensuring the updating of all membership details as well as updating fee payment records has been done meticulously by our treasurer, Dave Evans. For this he deserves our sincere thanks.

Membership again increased by 29 from 252 to 281. A number of student members became full members while the student population also grew by 10. Approximately 53% of the members were paid up for the 2004/2005 year. This is 10% lower than last year and needs attention.

The membership numbers, as on 31 July 2004, were as follows:

Membership type	Number
Full	211
Full/Foreign	8
Student	44
Corporate	2
Sub-total	265
Honorary/Life	16
Total	281

4. FINANCES

The finances of the society are in a fair state. Last year the financial year of the society was changed to run from January to December, and as a transition we have and financial reporting period of 18 months, which will end on 31 December 2005. Thus the 2004/5 membership fees were also for a 18 month period, while expenses increased considerably. The expense increases are due to the increased frequency of the newsletter (4 issues in stead of 3), the catch up of the backlog of ORiON – in the financial reporting period there will be 5 issues of ORiON in stead of the normal 2 which is quite an abnormal situation. In addition, ORiON now has a much improved appearance which has made the editions somewhat more expensive than the previous format. The

increase in expenses should be covered by the outstanding membership fees. Thus it is important that the outstanding fees are followed up over the last 4 months of the financial year.

The big cost items are always the publications of the society and the associated mailing costs. One could argue that members that are not paid up should no longer receive hard copies of the publications, but to a large extent that would merely be a saving in mailing costs, since the print costs would not reduce significantly with smaller volumes. Hence it is important that members who are in arrears are followed up in time.

The financial statements will be audited after the year end, and audited statements will be published in the Newsletter as soon as they are available. Members will also be given an opportunity to comment on the financial statements at the next AGM.

Dave Evans has been the controller of the society's purse over the last year and I want to thank him for his effort to keep the funds flowing.

5. CHAPTERS

The Chapter is the lifeblood of the society. This is where the member can network with fellow members. Hence it is essential that a number of members in each chapter steer the chapter towards greater activity. I am getting the impression that a number of our five geographically dispersed chapters are not very active, and I want to encourage them to start looking for opportunities to interact. The Executive is looking into measures to assist semi-dormant chapters to become more active. I want to reiterate what I said last year: If each member were merely to commit to arrange one chapter meeting once in five years, we would have 50 meetings in chapters throughout the year, spreading the message of OR!

Chapters will report individually during the AGM.

6. AFRICA INITIATIVE

Hans Ittmann attended the ORSEA conference in Dar Es Salaam in November 2004 on behalf of ORSSA. The conference was also attended by a number of other ORSSA members. There is an increasing interest in OR in East Africa, but the societies seem to want to do their own thing. ORSSA should be there to provide a helping hand where required. Theo Stewart in

his capacity of IFORS VP attended the OR Practice in Africa conference in Ouagadougou, Burkino Faso in April 2005. Letters of invitation to attend the ORSSA/SAIIE conference were sent to the president and secretary of ORSEA.

7. OTHER SOCIETIES

7.1 IFORS

ORSSA remains an active member of IFORS with Theo Stewart Vice-President, Paul Fatti, who is our IFORS representative, was the chairperson of the IFORS prize for developing countries in IFORS 2005 and Hans Ittmann is editor of the IFORS newsletter for Developing Countries which is published 4 times year. A number of ORSSA delegates attended the triennial IFORS conference in Honolulu in July this year. Initial preparations for the hosting of the IFORS 2008 conference have been made, amongst them a advertising leaflet distributed at the IFORS 2005 conference.

7.2 EURO

ORSSA may participate in all of EURO's activities. Theo Stewart is ORSSA's representative at EURO, while Hans Ittmann represented the president at this year's EURO Council meeting during the IFORS 2005 conference.

7.3 SACNASP

Currently ORSSA has no representative on SACNASP. On 1 July a SACNASP workshop /conference was held to focus specifically on the regulations of the new law regulating the work of registered scientific professionals and the recognition of voluntary associations. This was attended by Petrus Potgieter on behalf of the executive.

8. NEWSLETTER

The newsletter continued in its prestigious format and has appeared four times since the last AGM. Cobus Potgieter has continued with the excellent work done by Leo Tomé, who has assisted Cobus on the commercial side to ensure that funds were raised to make the newsletter almost pay for itself. Congratulations on excellent work done.

9. ORION

Jan van Vuuren has done a sterling job as editor of ORiON. Not only has he eliminated the backlog of more than a year in one grand sweep, but this was done with an ORiON in a totally new appearance, and individual issues of substance where in the past it was often difficult to fill a single volume. ORiON is now

up to date and Vol 21(2) should ship in December. Subscription rates have been increased to reflect the higher cost as well as to make membership of the society more attractive than a single subscription. ORiON is still accredited by the DoE and is thus a prime vehicle for academics and practitioners to publish their work. ORiON is further exposed by a listing on the African Journals Online website as well as being abstracted in the International Abstracts in Operations Research. Congratulations to Jan and his business manager, Stephan Visagie.

10. ORSSA WEBSITE

Petrus Potgieter has taken over the role of the webmaster and information is posted efficiently. All information pertaining to the society is accessible from the website. For the website to be a showpiece of OIRSSA, it is important that all executive members keep the webmaster up to date with the latest information about their portfolios. This is specifically important for Chapter activities.

11. TOM ROZWADOWSKI MEDAL

The TR Medal goes to the best OR paper published by a member of ORSSA over the period of a year. Marthi Harmse was in charge of the nomination process this year, while a committee consisting of Paul Fatti, Hans Ittmann, and Jan van Vuuren were responsible for the adjudication and the final selection. This year there was a good crop of papers to choose from. We thank the committee members for their sterling work. The winner will be announced during the gala dinner on Tuesday evening. A hearty word of congratulations to the (yet unknown) winner!

12. STUDENT COMPETITION

Margarete Bester took charge of the student competition this year. Firstly the mode of the competition was expanded to allow for two prizes: one for all work done up to Honours-level, and a second prize for work done at Masters level. We are very thankful to SAS for expanding their sponsorship of the competition to R9000 for the two prizes. At the time of writing the winners are as yet unknown, but the prizes will be announced during the gala dinner on Tuesday evening. Thanks go to Margarete for running with this project, as well as all the adjudicators who assisted her in making the final selection.

13. ORSSA / SAIIE 2005

At the time of writing all the arrangements for the conference are all in place. We look forward to a bumper conference and are honoured to have the Euro President, Alexis Tsoukiàs as our guest speaker. I sincerely hope that all of you will have a wonderful time. Thanks go to Marthi Harmse and her team for organizing the whole conference. Thanks are also due to the main sponsors of the conference, Sasol and the Development Bank of South Africa, as well as a number of other sponsors.

14. FELLOWS / RECOGNITION AWARDS

This is the first year that, in terms of the new constitution, members can be honoured as fellows or with recognition awards. A committee under chairmanship of Jan van Vuuren did a lot of work in drafting procedures for these merits and the executive will consider the recommendations of the sub-committee just prior to the conference. Announcements will also be made during the gala dinner on Tuesday evening.

15. GENERAL

It has been two years since I became president of our society. When I reflect on what has been achieved, then some of the steps have been incremental but others significant. I am not going to summarise all these developments. Suffice it to say that the executive have worked hard given the limitations of balancing demanding work environments, a personal social life as well as contributing in a meaningful way to ORSSA. Much is still to be done, but with limited hours in a day, especially for voluntary work, there is a limit to what the executive of the society can do. Naturally the more each member contributes, the more the society can achieve. I want to thank each and everyone of my fellow executive members for their contribution this year. At this AGM a stalwart of ORSSA will be vacating her position on the executive: Esbeth van Dyk has served ORSSA as secretary for as many years as I can remember. Thank you for your valued contribution towards the society and OR. You are an example to many.

Wim Gevers
ORSSA President

28 August 2005

Operations Research Society of South Africa

Treasurer's Report to the Annual General Meeting: 29th August 2005

The following comments amplify the provisional income statement which was presented at the AGM, and should be read in conjunction with it.

As the Society's financial year was changed at the last AGM to correspond with the calendar year, the current financial reporting period is a one-off eighteen month period, from July 2004 to December 2005. Audited accounts for this period can obviously only be tabled at the next AGM. The period has considerably more activities in some respects than a twelve month year (e.g. two conferences, more Newsletters and issues of Orion.) In addition, Orion has been "catching up" on back publications, which has made the number of issues higher still.

At the current time, the Society is showing a loss of approximately R14 000 for the period in question. This includes a cost of R6 653 for IFORS 2008 brochures which will be recouped in due course from the conference, so the "real" loss is only about R7 500 at this stage. The additional publication expenses referred to above, alone amount to an abnormal charge of some R25 000. In addition, on the credit side, total outstanding membership fees exceed R40 000, although not all of those will be successfully collected.

The Society's bank balance is almost R90 000, which does not include substantial funds held by several of the Chapters. The Society's finances are therefore acceptably healthy.

The Treasurer's current priority is to collect as many of the outstanding membership fees as possible.

D W Evans
National Treasurer
ORSSA

28th August 2005

Provisional Income Statement for the thirteen months:
July 2004 to August 2005

Operations Research Society of South Africa

Income Statement for the period 1 July 2004 to 20 August 2005

	2005	2004
Income	67636.48	67 886.72
Subscription Fees	33987.56	39 091.38
ORION (Foreign subscriptions)	120.00	1 586.25
Donations received for student prizes		3 500.00
Advertisements	26273.80	16 300.00
ORSSA 2004 Conference profit	7255.12	0.00
ORSSA 2003 Conference profit		3 004.07
Exchange rate gain		0.00
Interest received		4 405.02
Expenditure	85434.91	68 885.52
Newsletters and journal production and distribution	64723.49	38 548.81
Medals and gifts	1382.54	897.90
Student competition prizes	4000.00	5 000.00
Bank charges	2019.85	1 535.88
Executive strategy session	691.00	9 387.00
Website development		1 580.00
Bad debts provided for		7 379.85
Bad debts written off		2 570.00
OR/MS Today Journal	3007.15	
IFORS subscription fee	1327.60	495.77
EURO subscription fee	1629.92	1 490.31
IFORS 2008 brochure (will be reclaimed)	6653.36	
NETT INCOME/ (LOSS)	(17798.43)	(998.80)

Notes:

1. R6653.36 of the ytd loss is costs incurred on behalf of the IFORS 2008 conference, and will be recouped in due course.
 2. Outstanding subscriptions due to the Society amount to R44637.32, made up as follows:

Current year (2004/5)	R31607.32 (net figure) (53%)
2003/4	R 9670.00 (21%)
2002/3	R 1260.00
2001/2 and earlier	R 2100.00
- Obviously, a significant portion of the outstanding 2004/5 subs at least is expected to be collected.

ORSSA Newsletter Report: October 2004 – September 2005

The 2004/2005 year made history in that it was the first year to produce 4 newsletters. It was decided at the 2003 executive meeting, in Pretoria, that the newsletter will become a quarterly publication and the first Christmas issue was printed in December 2004. A number of objectives were set at the executive meeting of 2003 regarding the look of the Newsletter and its functionality. This, together with the standard set over the previous two years, laid a firm foundation for the issues of this year. We believe that in all four issues, that of September 2004, December 2004, March 2005 and June 2005, these objectives were once again met.

Starting as editor of the Newsletter was a challenging job, but very rewarding. I have learned a lot about editing, ORSSA and Operations Research in general and I know that this would not have been the case if I was not elected as editor for this year. This makes it even harder for me to give up this position, but unfortunately I have to. Due to my unknown future, I cannot continue as editor of the Newsletter. I will however see to it that the new editor is fully assisted for his important new job.

To our experience it can be said that the editing part of the newsletter is a fulltime job and that the decision to split the portfolio from that of business manager was a good one. This made it possible for the editor to concentrate on the contents and the layout of the newsletter and not worry about the finances. There is a distinct line between the responsibilities of the editor and the business manager and no misunderstandings occurred during this first year. Communication between me and the business manager occurred mainly via e-mail and was found as being a sufficient medium.

The responsibilities of the editor were:

1. Approaching members to provide material for the newsletter.
2. Following up on people that committed to material.
3. Layout of newsletter.
4. Liaising with printers.
5. Paying US printers (due to logistics)

The responsibilities of the business manager were:

1. Recruiting advertisers.
2. Reminding advertisers to submit material.
3. Invoicing of advertisers.

Outsourced:

1. Mailing of newsletters.

The following table shows the projected finances for the 2004/2005 year for the four issues. We had to make a projection since we are still waiting for some of the invoices, e.g. the March invoice. This has been brought to their attention.

Description	Income	Expense
Advertising	20 670.00	0.00
Postage		2 991.00
Printing		19 028.83
Total	20 670.00	22 019.00

Given the difference between the income and expenditure of the newsletter one can only call it a bargain and as members of the society we should try and support our advertisers as far as possible. One of the positive cost saving initiatives of the past year has been the fact that the June and December Newsletter and Journal are mailed together saving a couple of thousand Rand per annum.

The newsletter has had three advertisers on a regular basis now for the past two and a half years. Blue Stallion has committed to another four issues, and we are relatively confident that SAS would once again commit to another year. Getting a fourth advertiser should be a priority for the coming year as to minimise the risk of having the newsletter becoming a large expense should ORSSA lose one of the advertisers. Any leads on possible advertisers are always welcome.

As editor I would just like to thank all our members who contributed to the newsletter throughout the last year and made it possible for me to edit four issues. Without contributions from ORSSA members the newsletter loses some of its value. I do still think, however, that there is room for more involvement from the general member of ORSSA and the new editor maybe should look at ways to invite members actively to write for the newsletter. Nonetheless the standard of the articles that I received was of the highest and made it easy for me to publish.

Cobus Potgieter and Leo Tomé



August 23rd, 2005

REPORT BY THE EDITOR

I am happy to report that the publication of ORiON is once again up to date. Altogether five issues of ORiON will have been published during the September 2004 – December 2005 Executive Committee year: Volume 19 (issues 1 and 2 bound together) was published in September 2004 (just after the 2004 annual conference), Volume 20(1) and Volume 20(2) were both published (simultaneously, but bound separately) in December 2004, Volume 21(1) was published in June 2005 and the publication process of Volume 21(2) is well under way – it is foreseen that this issue will be published on time (in December 2005). The editor would like to thank all the associate editors, the business manager and the anonymous referees who have worked under great pressure to ensure that ORiON appears on time.

The Society has incurred a considerable financial burden during the 2004/2005 budget year by this publication rate of ORiON in order to catch up the previous backlog, but it has been well worth the price tag, since ORiON seems to be going strong again. The journal has retained its Department of Education accreditation and the process of applying for an ISI listing for ORiON is under way: we hope to have ORiON on the ISI accreditation list by the end of 2007 – in the mean time it will remain on the DoE list.

ORiON receives exposure with a listing and own webpage on the *African Journals Online* website (at <http://www.ajol.info>), in addition to the ORiON webpage on the ORSSA website – electronic abstracts and full papers may be downloaded from both these websites. Furthermore, ORiON enjoys exposure by up to date abstract listings in *International Abstracts in Operations Research*.

ORiON enjoys a healthy submission rate at present. Altogether 31 papers were submitted to ORiON during the calendar year 2004, of which just under 60% were by ORSSA members. As of the middle of August 19 papers had already been submitted during 2005 – indications are that the journal will receive more than 31 submissions during 2005. Our acceptance rate was 29% in 2004 and it is expected to drop very slightly in 2005; the percentage of ORSSA member submissions is also expected to drop slightly during 2005.

The local subscription rate for ORiON was increased from R60 per issue up to and including Volume 19 to R150 per issue from Volume 20 onwards. This increase was in line with the increase of membership dues (occurring approximately simultaneously), and was designed to render annual subscription alone (which is therefore now R300) slightly more than annual membership dues (which is currently R250), so as to encourage membership, which includes receiving ORiON as a benefit. However, a price increase for overseas subscription from US\$40 per annum (which has been the price for many years) to US\$80 per annum is currently being considered, so as to increase the revenue generated by ORiON. As most of our overseas subscribers are institutions, this planned price increase is not expected to put ORiON out of financial reach of our overseas subscribers.

I would like to thank the members of ORSSA for submitting their interesting research for publication in ORiON, and I would like to invite members to continue utilizing ORiON as publication vehicle.

Jan H van Vuuren
ORiON Editor

Chapter Report

Johannesburg Chapter

The Chapter's activities over the past year started off with a successful AGM and Technical talk held at the Wits Club on 10 November 2004. Approximately 25 people attended a very interesting talk entitled "A Practical Application of an Economic Optimisation Model in an Underground Mining Environment", presented by Elton Bondi of Cyst Consulting.

After Elton's talk, a brief, but effective, AGM was held. During the AGM Dave Evans advised that as he had accepted the position of Treasurer of the National Society, he would no longer be available to Chair the Johannesburg Chapter committee. Paul Fatti also advised that as he was retiring from Wits at the end of 2004, he would also step down from the Johannesburg Chapter committee. Neil Manson was elected chair of the committee, which now consists of the following members: Neil Manson (Chair), Napthal Ndaba (Vice-chair), Dave Evans (Secretary), Derek Saunderson (Treasurer), and Louis Dannhauser.

In the first 6 months of 2005, the chapter has been very quiet, due to a very busy first semester for the new chairman. We did not hold a Schools Day this year, but Derek is meeting with schools to plan an appropriate date for 2006. We are planning two further events for 2005, a technical talk on 13th October and a Technical Talk and AGM on 17th November. Dr. Jan Meyer from Monash University will present a talk on Logistics at the AGM.

The Chapter's finances are very healthy, with the current balance standing at R28 184,47.

Neil Manson
Chairperson
27 Aug 2005

Operational Research Society of South Africa Vaal Triangle Chapter

Annual Report 2005

The main objective of the Vaal Triangle Chapter of the Operations Research Society of South Africa (ORSSA) for 2003 was to raise awareness concerning Operations Research in the Vaal Triangle. The chapter joined forces with the South African Institute for Industrial Engineering (SAIIE) to establish the Vaal Triangle Chapter of ORSSA and SAIIE. The main objective of the chapter for 2004 was to become more sustainable – financial and otherwise. The chapter is deeply indebted to Mr. Jannie van der Westhuizen, General Manager, Sasol Group Human Resources, who still acts as sponsor for all activities of the chapter since February 2004.

In 2005 the main objective of the chapter was to get people to join the societies and the committee of the chapter. The major activity undertaken was the joint SAIIE and ORSSA Annual Conference 2005.

Besides the annual conference, three symposia were arranged for 2005:

1. Enterprise risk management

On 2 March Robbin Hendry, a private consultant, addressed the chapter on enterprise risk management. Robin gave an introduction to the concept of enterprise wide risk, after which he explained how to perform risk mapping and value mapping. He then demonstrated how to determine shareholder value and strategic risk. Robin concluded by explaining how all risks could be linked in order to inform decision making.

2. The integration of value engineering into engineering management activities

The next symposium linked well with the first one. Kurt Huber of VM Services (Pty) Ltd and part-time lecturer at the University of the Witwatersrand, explained that value engineering is a decision-making methodology, a dynamic process focusing the collective wisdom of multi-disciplinary groups to define common objectives, prioritise what needs to be done and then to identify how best to achieve the targeted results. Kurt demonstrated how acceptable trade-offs between cost and functionality could be achieved through a series of value improvement processes which are developed to interact with engineering execution processes. He also explained why value engineering and value management are important and how it could add value to engineering execution processes. Kurt concluded by giving examples of typical value engineering applications and techniques and by referring to value engineering qualifications internationally and in South Africa.

3. 19th SAIIE & 35th ORSSA Annual Conference 2005

The most ambitious event up to now for the joint Vaal Triangle Chapter of ORSSA and SAIIE was hosting a joint SAIIE and ORSSA annual conference on 28 to 31 August. (The previous conference hosted by the chapter in 2001 was before forces were joined with SAIIE.) This was a major - but enjoying - learning experience for all involved and report will be given after the conference. The committee plans to document the processes followed for future use by the societies.

4. Coal Value Chain optimisation

The last event planned for this year in October is a presentation by Marinda Swart, a previous winner of the ORSSA student competition and currently at Sasol Mining, on a project to optimise the Sasol coal value chain in Secunda. A series of presentations on the project is also given at the annual conference.

As in the past, people from different disciplines attend activities of the chapter from all over Gauteng, North West, Mpumalanga and the Free State. Lively discussions are held during interactive presentations and thereafter while having something to eat and drink. Presentations are in the process of being loaded on the intranet of Sasol and on the websites of the societies. After the symposia, some attendees started doing OR type of work themselves or commissioned it. Interactions were established between different organisations and between industry and academics.

Challenges that still need to be addressed include people to join the committee of the chapter.

The Vaal Triangle chapter of ORSSA and SAIIE would like to thank the executive committees of the societies for their support. We would also like to thank Sasol Limited for not only sponsoring all activities of the society, but also for their generous sponsorship of the annual conference. Trevor Munday is thanked for supporting the request for a sponsorship and Cobus Jansen for executing the sponsorship. A special word of thanks to Marinda Thornhill, also from Sasol, for the excellent way she arranged most of the events and for her general support to the chapter.

Andy Msiza is thanked for his great contribution as a conference organising committee member. He will take over from me as ORSSA chairperson from 2006.

Lourette Slaghuis is thanked for her great contribution as chairperson of the chapter on behalf of SAIIE and as a conference organising committee member, especially as conference treasurer.

Marthi Harmse
Chairperson

Annual Report of the Western Cape Chapter of the Western Cape.

During the past year the Western Cape Chapter already had ?? meetings.

After last years conference, there were three meetings left for the remainder of 2004. On the 22nd of September Cathrine Black gave a talk on the optimal inventory control at a cardboard box producing factory, which also forms part of her M.Sc oral examination. On the 13th of October Elmari Roos gave a talk on a Taguchi application in experimental planning.

We finished 2004's activities with the annual student competition on the 17th of November.

The new year kicked off on the 2nd of February with a talk by Nicky Pantland on the 3D Numerical techniques for determining the foot of a continental. This was followed on the 11th of May with a talk by David Coleman (PIC Solutions) on the different techniques used in credit scoring. At our last meeting on the 22nd of June Frank Ortmann gave a talk on the process of modelling the South African Fruit Export Infrastructure.

There are still 3 talks scheduled for the remainder of this year.

On the 23rd of November we will finish this year on a high with the Annual Western Cape Student competition.

Margerete Bester
Chairperson